

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EUR-25 SAB-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /154 W

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R 271056Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6010

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SA

SUBJ: SAUDI REACTIONS TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

1. IN CONTACTS WITH SAUDIS, BOTH PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL, WE HAVE FOUND AN ALMOST UNANIMOUS POSITIVE REACTION TO ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, A REACTION COMPOUNDED OF SATISFACTION AT TANGIBLE STEP TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT, CREDIT TO THE U.S. FOR ITS ROLE IN REACHING AGREEMENT, AND RESPECT FOR PERSONAL EFFORTS OF SECRETARY.

2. AT SAME TIME, IT CLEAR THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS NO VALUE FOR SAUDIS AS END IN ITSELF. THEY ARE PRESENTLY SOMEWHAT BUOYED BY HOPES OF MOVEMENT TOWARD AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT -- A SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL INVOLVE ELEMENTS THEY RECOGNIZE AS BEING FAR MORE DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE THAN THE SEPARATION OF FORCES; E.G., FUTURE OF WEST BANK, OF PALESTINIANS, AND PARTICULARLY OF JERUSALEM. UNDERLYING PRESENT SATISFACTION THEREFORE IS CONCERN THAT

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THE PROBLEMS AHEAD MIGHT PROVE TOO GREAT AND THAT USG

MIGHT LACK THE MEANS -- AND FOR MANY THIS TRANSLATES TO
WILL -- TO CONTINUE FORCING PROGRESS AND THAT MIDDLE EAST
SITUATION WILL AGAIN SETTLE INTO INTOLERABLE STALEMATE.

3. IN AN INTER-ARAB CONTEXT, SAG HAS ALSO SHOWN SOME
CONCERN THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA MIGHT REACH AN UNDERSTANDING
WITH ISRAEL THAT FAILED TO TAKE SUFFICIENTLY INTO ACCOUNT
KING FAISAL'S OVERRIDING INTEREST IN JERUSALEM.
AKINS

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30 JUN 2005

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